

New Coverage Options for Small Employers

If you're an employer with 50 or fewer full-time equivalent employees, you have a simpler way to buy health coverage. It's called the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace.

Buying a SHOP health plan for your employees has some important advantages, like access to tax credits worth up to 50 % of your employee premium contributions, if you qualify. Use the SHOP Tax Credit Estimator HealthCare.gov/small-business-tax-credit-calculator/ to learn the size of the tax credit you could get for contributing to your employees' premium costs.

Starting November 2014, you and your employees can visit HealthCare.gov to enroll online for coverage starting January 1, 2015. Also, employers in some states can offer employees a choice of health plans. This is called "employee choice." To find out which states will offer employee choice, visit <https://marketplace.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/states-with-employee-choice.pdf>.

Remember, if you have fewer than 50 employees, you aren't required to offer health coverage and there's no penalty if you choose not to.